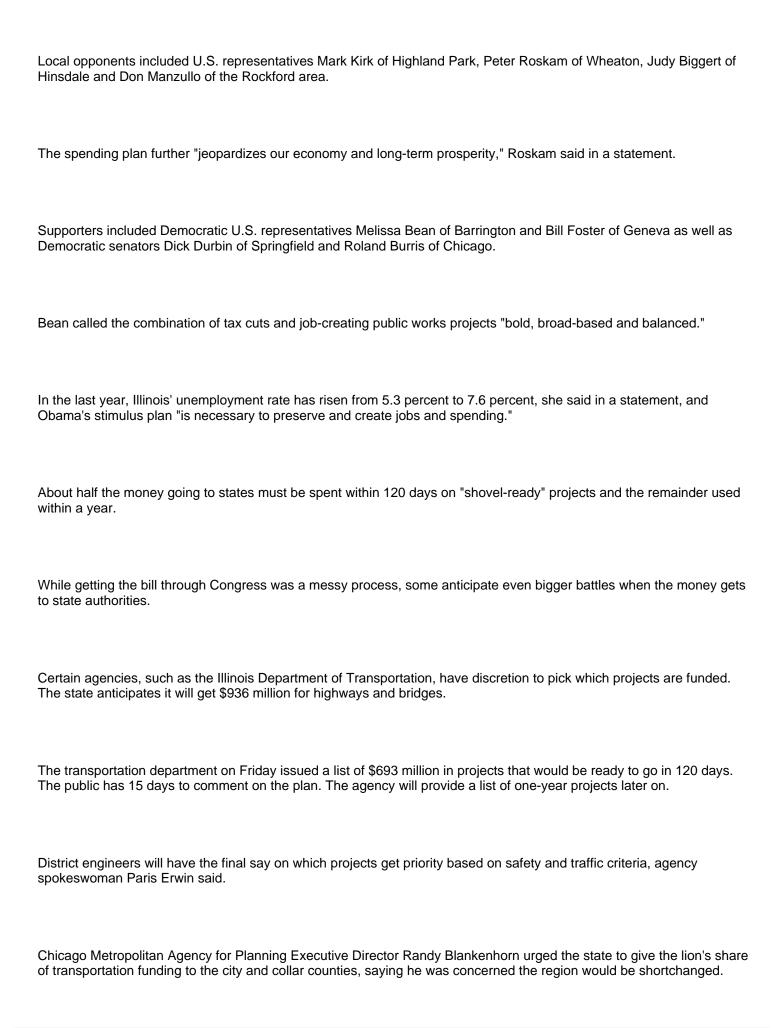
(February 14, 2009) Daily Herald: So How Much Stimulus Do We Get?

http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=272091
With President Barack Obama expected to sign the \$787 billion economic stimulus package Monday, America is on the verge of a gold rush as counties, states and interest groups scramble to get a share.
While officials are still crunching the numbers, it appears Illinois could secure more than \$4 billion for everything from education funding to road improvements and job training programs.
Of the \$4 billion outlined in congressional analysis reports, nearly \$1.8 billion will go toward public works projects, which includes \$468 million for mass transit and \$936 million for road and bridge repairs. And that's just the beginning of the federal cash influx, a good chunk of which is sure to come to Chicago and the suburbs.
The state's education and operations funds are set to get a \$1.7 billion infusion. Add to that nearly \$300 million for Medicaid and several hundred million dollars more for law enforcement, job training, energy conservation efforts and water projects.
Overall, the stimulus package intended to jump-start the economy includes \$281 billion for national tax relief and \$506 billion for transportation, education, the environment, science and technology, public housing and health care.
The cash, set to be added to the national deficit, is sorely needed in Illinois, Gov. Pat Quinn has said. The state is facing a \$9 billion shortfall, prodding lawmakers to contemplate significant budget cuts and painful tax hikes.
Quinn spokesman Bob Reed said "every bit helps," but he wasn't yet sure exactly how the federal cash would affect the state's budget woes.
Suburban lawmakers on Capitol Hill voted along partisan lines on the measure, with Republicans calling the plan a waste of taxpayer dollars that won't provide its promised economic kick.

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Overall the plan passed the House Friday 246-183, with no Republicans support. Then Friday night the Senate passed

the plan 60-38.



"The metropolitan area is the economic engine of the state," Blankenhorn said.
Some of the dollars, however, such as money for public transit, are allocated by federal formulas.
Transportation experts estimated the Chicago Transit Authority would receive \$226 million, Metra \$132 million and Pace \$31 million.
Metra has already identified a number of needs including a new 35th Street station, additional parking and remanufactured locomotives, Metra Executive Director Phil Pagano noted.
Meanwhile, Illinois education leaders said Friday they didn't yet know how their share of the bailout would be spent because the cash is likely tied to strict regulations on disbursement.
"We're waiting to see just like everyone else," said Mary Ann Fergus, spokeswoman for the Illinois State Board of Education.
Nationwide, the stimulus bill sets aside \$53.6 billion for education in the form of a State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, which is designed to prevent the layoff of teachers and the elimination of key educational programs. Of that amount, \$40.6 billion will go to local school districts, \$5 billion to states as bonus grants for academic performance and \$8 billion to states for critical needs that include education.
About \$1 billion has been allocated for airport modernization programs, and indications are that O'Hare International Airport won't lose out despite lobbying by Bensenville leaders who oppose the expansion.
Western Springs Democrat U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski, who sits on the powerful House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, promised he'd work to ensure O'Hare gets its share.
Illinois' share
Here is a look at some of the Illinois funding in the stimulus plan, according to a U.S. House analysis obtained by the Daily Herald:

\$1.7 billion	
Roads & bridges	
\$936 million	
Transit	
\$468 million	
Medicaid	
\$290 million	
Clean water improvements	
\$249 million	
Energy saving programs	
\$177 million	
Job training	
\$154 million	

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Law	emorcement	

\$85 million